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ABSTRACT

This bulletin presents news and opinions of the staff of Project Brave of the St. John Valley in northern Maine. This issue contains geographical and historical information concerning the region of the St. John Valley and along the Acadian Trail. Included are many photographs of that area. (SK)

PROJECT BRAVE BULLETIN

Evangeline

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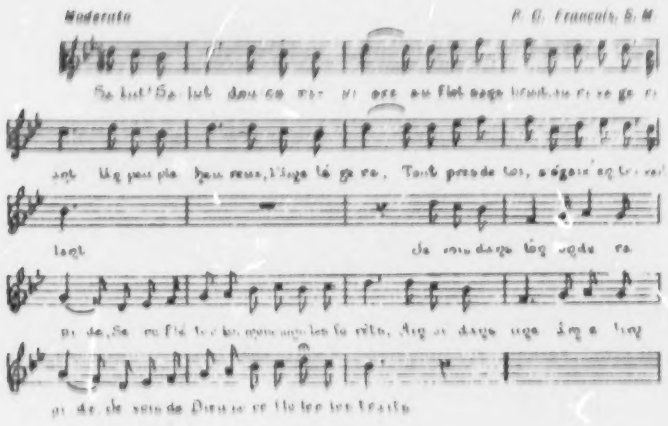
St. John Valley, Maine

VOL. II, No. 2

Chanson de la Rivière St-Jean



Flots, retardez votre course ;
Ici, les fleurs, l'air pur, la liberté,
Des qui enfants, le babillage,
Font oublier les bruits de la cité.

J'ai visité les belles ruines
Des grands châteaux normands au rocher ;
J'aime mieux mes vertes collines,
Mon Van Buren, mon Madawan, mon clocher.

Rage ! tant, rebelle Pierre,
Qui, sur tes bords, mes mains lavèrent,
Que les flots plats de ma rivière,
Viennent un peu rincer mon tombeau !

ST. JOHN VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION

TITLE VII STAFF

Omer Picard, Director
Gil Hebert, Evaluator
Norman Dube, French Specialist
Sr. Sharon Leavitt, Curriculum Specialist and Brave Bulletin Editor

Our heartfelt thanks go to Miss Martine Pelletier of Van Buren, for her advice on compiling the historical facts in this booklet.

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RIVER ROUTE

This route runs from Edmundston, capital of the legendary "Republic of Madawaska" (and Maine's Madawaska) south to the sea and city of St. John, N. B. The River Route follows the beautiful, scenic St. John River, known as the "Rhine of America," which was a highway for the Indians and once the main artery of commerce.

ACADIAN TRAIL

The Acadian Trail winds through farming and fishing communities largely populated by descendants of early Acadian and Canadian settlers. These people called the land Acadia. They were dependent on the harvest of land and sea and settled along the coast. They brought their language, culture and architecture, traces of which can still be found in the St. John Valley and along the Acadian Trail.

SAMUEL de CHAMPLAIN

On June 24, 1604, St. John the Baptist day, Samuel de Champlain first explored the mouth of the St. John River, whence its name. Today, off Charlotte Street in St. John, N. B., stands a statue of Champlain which was erected in 1904, celebrating the tri-centennial of the discovery of the St. John River. The right arm of the statue points towards the estuary of the river and the Reversing Falls Rapids.

LE GRAND DERANGEMENT

The events of the 18th century made outcasts of the Acadian people. The terms of the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 gave Cape Breton Island and Prince Edward Island, but ceded all of Nova Scotia (then called Acadia) and its former boundaries to England. This Treaty stated that the Acadians were ". . . to remove themselves within a year to any other place, as they shall see fit . . . ." The British continually plagued the French settlers with the question of an oath of allegiance which they wanted the Acadians to take. The Acadians did not want to join forces against the French, so they persisted in their neutrality.

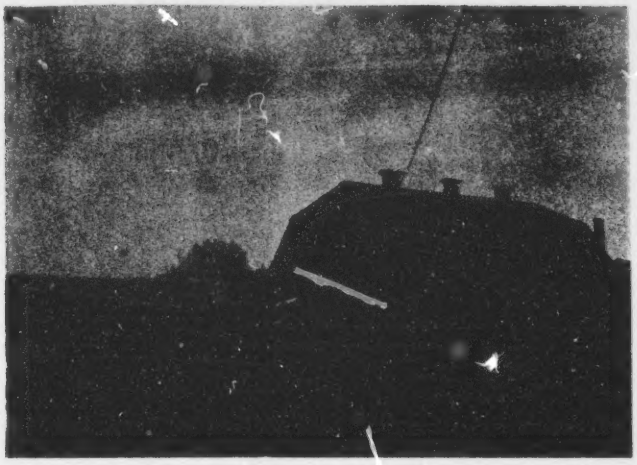
In the fall of 1755 came the final blow — "Le Grand Derangement." From then on the entire North American continent received wandering groups of Acadian refugees forced by England from their homeland.

On foot, for the most part, a small number of Acadians managed to come back to regions close to their beloved Acadia. Following is a pictorial essay of the regions of the St. John Valley of Northern Maine and of some of the Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia where the Acadians resettled.

The St. John became the boundary line between the U.S. (left side of photo) and Canada (right side of photo) in 1842.

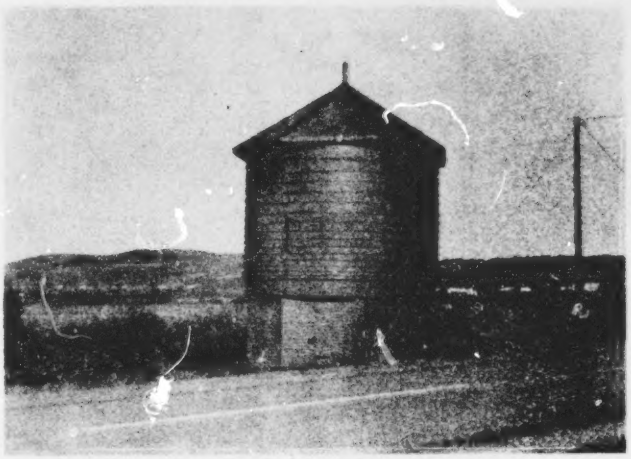
Fort Kent Block House (1839) was built because of boundary disputes settled by the Treaty of Washington (the Webster-Ashburton Treaty) and stated that the St. John River become the boundary line between Maine and England (now Canada).

St. Luce Church, Upper Frenchville, was the location of the first mission church of the St. John Valley in 1831.

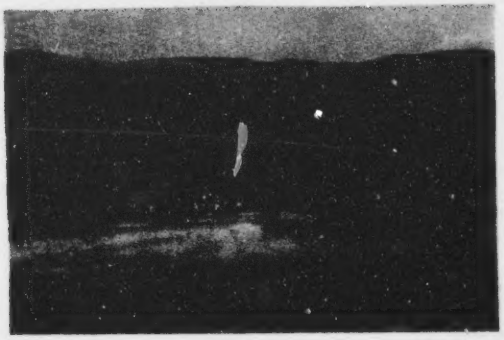


A typical potato house located in St. Agatha.

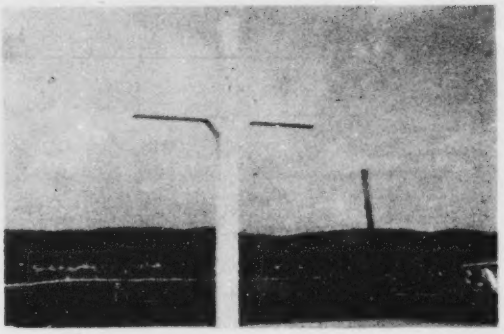
A very old buckwheat mill of Frenchville, which turns out the flour for the region's favorite pancake, "les plogues."



Very old wooden water tower located in Frenchville.

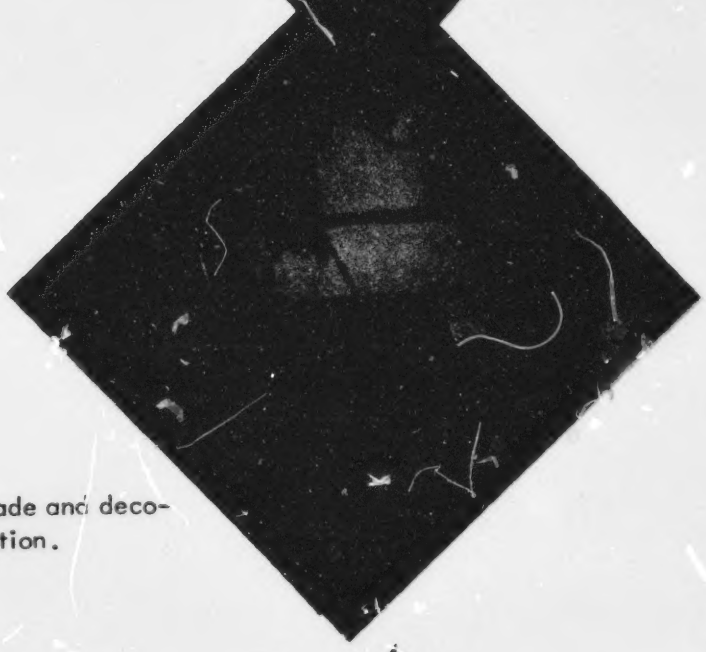


Journey by canoe from St. Basil to St. David made in 1971 to commemorate the original trip and landing along the St. John River in 1785.



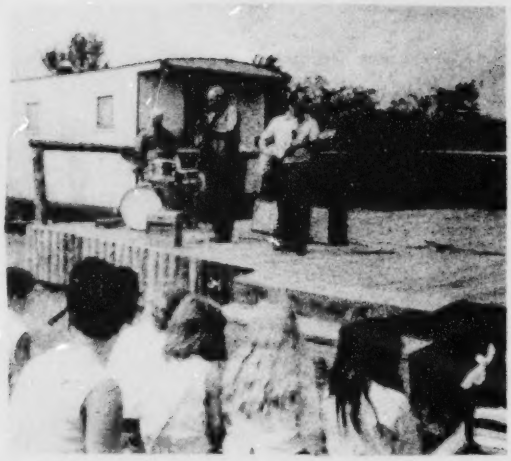
This cross commemorates the landing of some of the first Acadians on American soil in 1785.

St. David parish church celebrates its centenary in 1971.



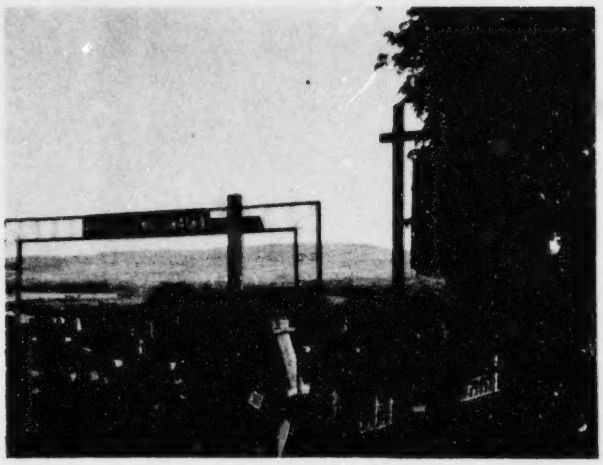
Centenary cake is made and decorated for the celebration.

This log cabin was completed and dedicated for the centennial celebration of St. David.



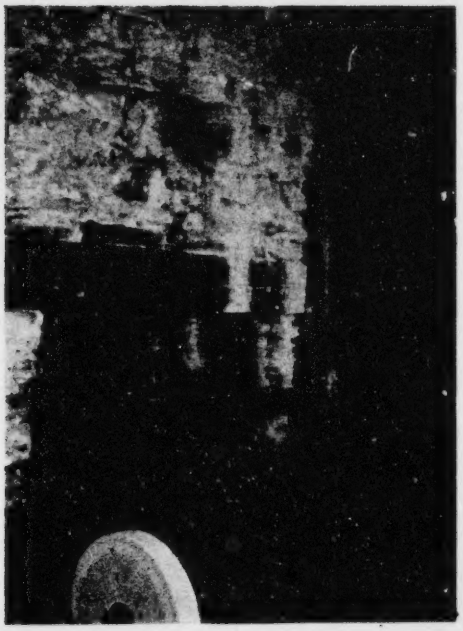
Local strummers supply the background music for square dancing, games and other celebrations.

Potatoes still flourish on the fertile land of the beautiful St. John River Valley.



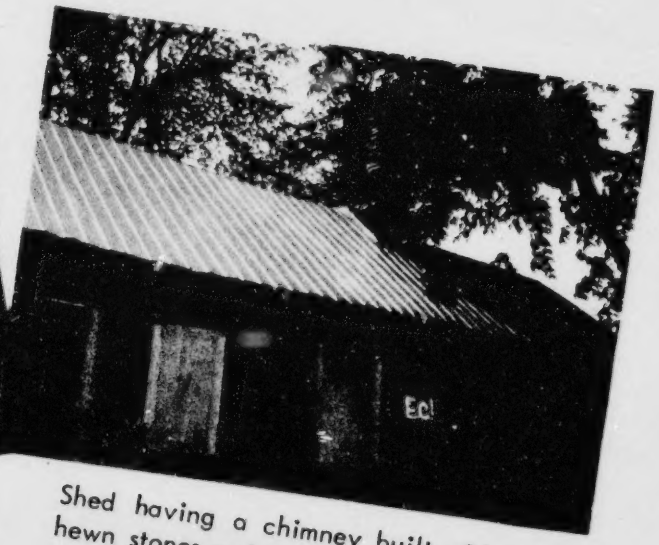
A section of the St.Basil cemetery is dedicated to the region's ancestors who arrived in 1785. Crosses are inscribed with the names of the first families to settle in the Valley.

Replica of the first Chapel of St. Basil which was built in 1786.



Antique hearth and grindstone found in the shed pictured below.

An old home located in St. Basil which illustrates typical Acadian architecture.



Shed having a chimney built of hand-hewn stones and constructed according to Acadian technique.

THE STORY OF OUR BELL

The bell which beckons us to prayer daily is also the first bell to have rung out in the "Republic of Madawaska." No one knows for sure when it was first heard in St. Basile. The bark-covered chapel of 1787 had no bell. According to Father Albert, the church of 1793 did not have a steeple, but was surmounted by a cross.

However, in 1803, Msgr. Denant requested the completion of the church in St. Basile. Soon after, the following allocations are written into the parish ledger: wood for steeple, August, 1806, 3 shillings; cable for the bell, 1809, 1 shilling, 6 deniers.

From this, it is assumed that our bell first rang from the rustique belfry of St. Basile. Church sometime during the first decade of the 19th century.

It is known that the bell was given to the parishioners of St. Bruno in 1838. It was a part of their liturgical life until 1873 when the small Allendale Church was replaced by a larger one on the present site (Violette Brook).

The bell was moved in 1885 to the new chapel of St. Joseph Church in Hamlin. In September of 1925 it was returned to Allendale where it was used as a school bell at Champlain School.

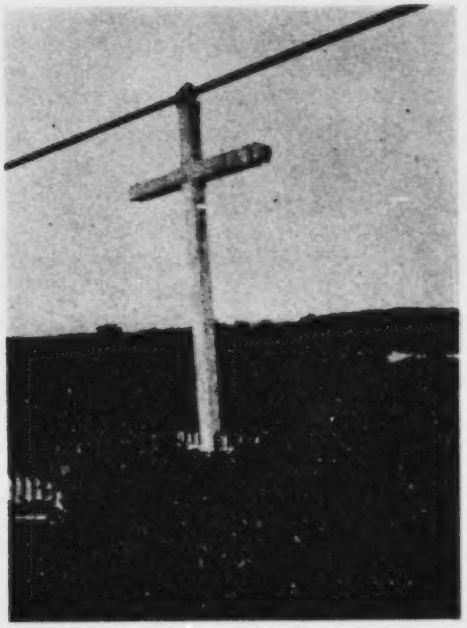
For a while the bell was silent. It chimed temporarily during the Centennial of St. Bruno Church in 1938.

Our bell has served its spiritual and educational purpose and is now retired. The sisters of St. Bruno, who were confided the care of this historical bell, have loaned the bell in the log cabin of the St. David Museum in the safekeeping of the Madawaska Historical Society.

A LA CLOCHE DE NOTRE COUVENT
(Written by a Sister of St. Bruno Convent, Van Buren)

Voix grave et pure
Ton doux murmure,
Sous la toiture,
Met en nos coeurs
Des mélodies . . .
Des litanies . . .
Des élégies . . .
Des chants berceurs!

Voix tutélaire
Et solitaire
Du sanctuaire
De mon couvent
Vers la Patrie
L'âme ravie
Guide ma vie
A tout moment!

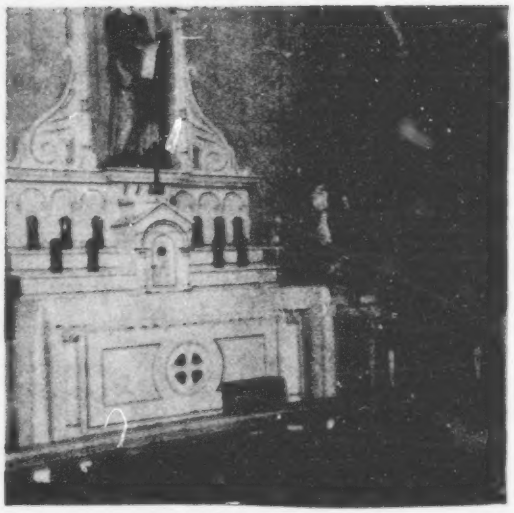


Site of the original St. Bruno Church located in Keegan. In 1838, St. Bruno parish was the first official parish organized in the St. John Valley.

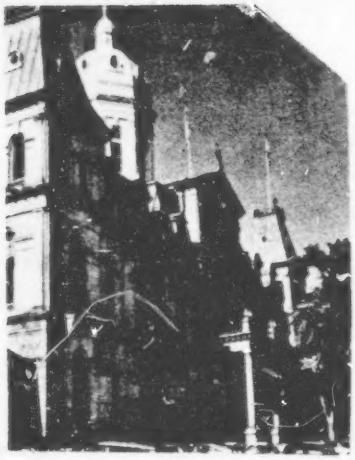
St. Mary's College, Van Buren, Maine, was founded in 1884 by the Marist Fathers. Regular classes began in 1887. The college remained active until 1926.

"French Village," or Kingsclear, is an early Acad. ı Mission. It is now a Malecite Mission. This church contains the "cloche de Meductic", a gift of King Louis XV after the fall of the French regime.

This very old cemtery faces the front entrance of the mission church.



St. Anne is the patroness of the Malecite Mission.

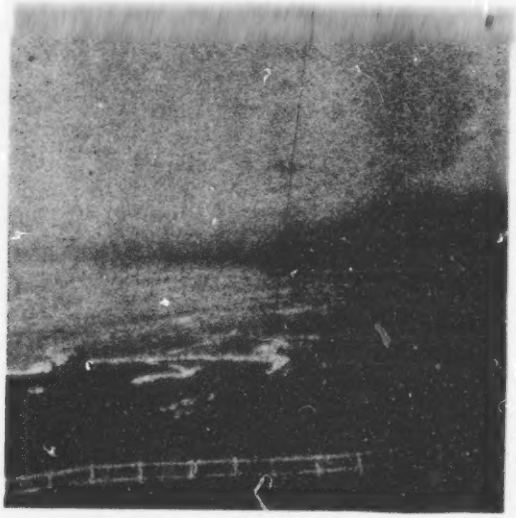


Fredericton (formerly Saint-Anne), is the capital of the Province of New Brunswick. Pictured is the Parliament building.

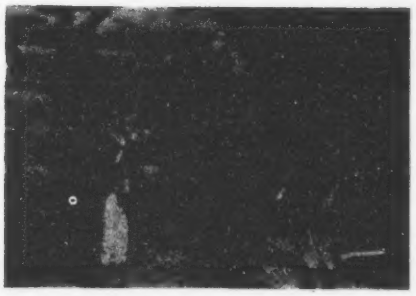
FRENCH SCHOOL. French citizens of Fredericton have established temporary quarters for their private French school in a vacant army barracks.

Christ Church,
Anglican gothic cathedral.

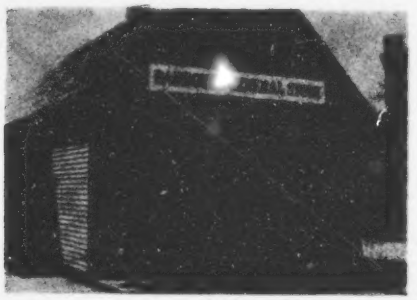
Painting commemorating the landing of the Loyalists at Saint John, N.B., May 18, 1783.



The Reversing Falls mark the spot where the St. John changes directions in St. John, New Brunswick.

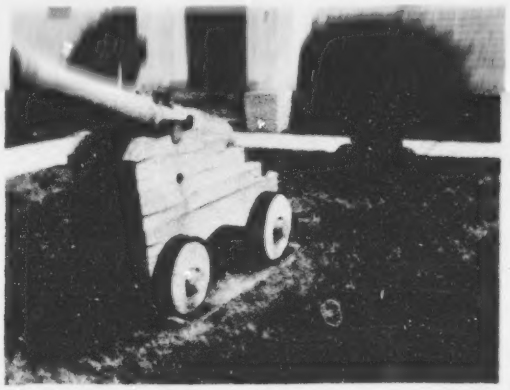


Martello Tower is a fortress built in 1812. Today it houses a museum of effects, uniforms, cannonades and muskets.

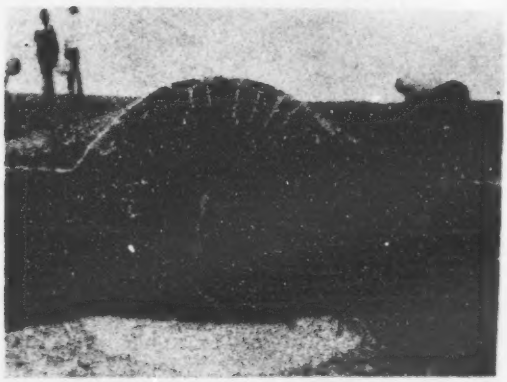


G. E. Barbour General Store contains a collection of authentic goods and utensils displayed for viewing in a restored (1867) General Store.

FORT ANNE (Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia)



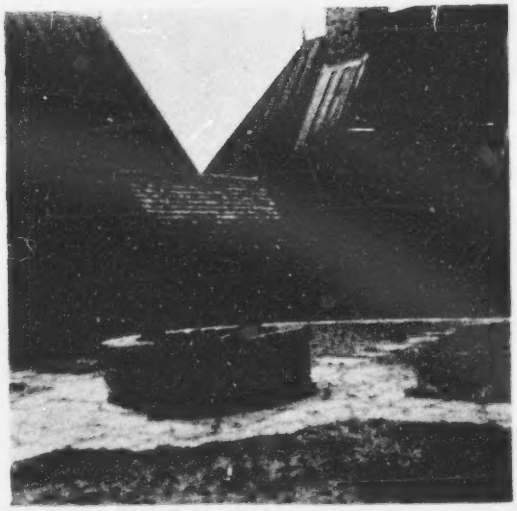
Fort Anne was built by d'Aulnay de Charnisay around the year 1635. The name was changed from Annapolis Royal in honor of Queen Anne of England.



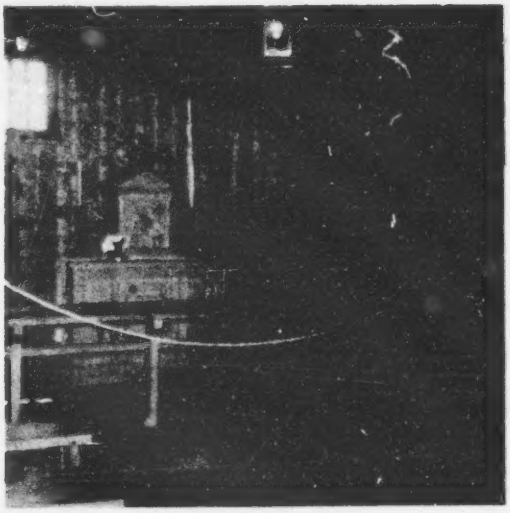
Pictured are the remains of the ramparts, bastions and powder magazine of the original Fort.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL (L'Habitation de Champlain)

The oldest "Habitation" built by whites north of the Gulf of Mexico. Replica of Champlain's Habitation of 1605.



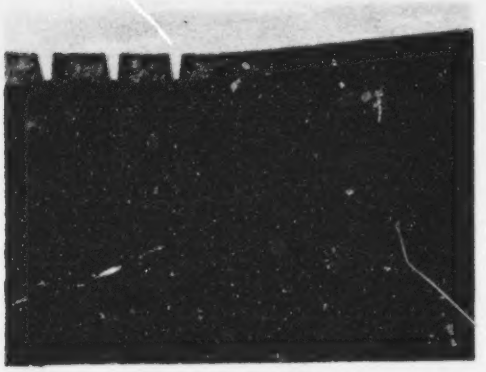
The museum contains reconstructed model of a complete ancient "foyer."



Above is the chapel reconstruction of the "Habitation."

LOUISBOURG, Nova Scotia

Reconstructed Chateau of St.Louis
(early residence of the French Governors).



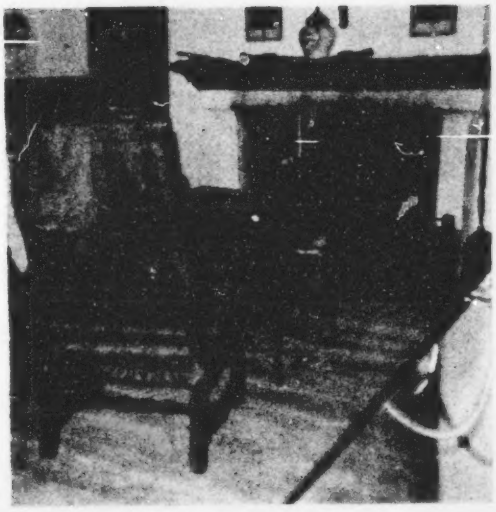
Fortress of Louisbourg,
Chateau St. Louis

Foundation of the original hospital

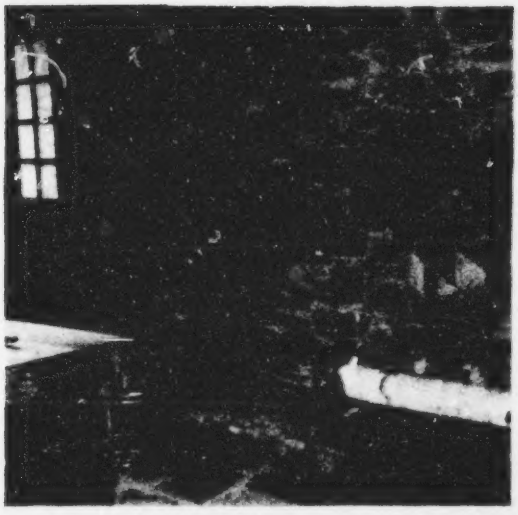
Servants' quarters

King's Bastion, built in 1720 by France to guard the mouth of the St. Lawrence.

"Magasin General," chief storehouse for government supplies.



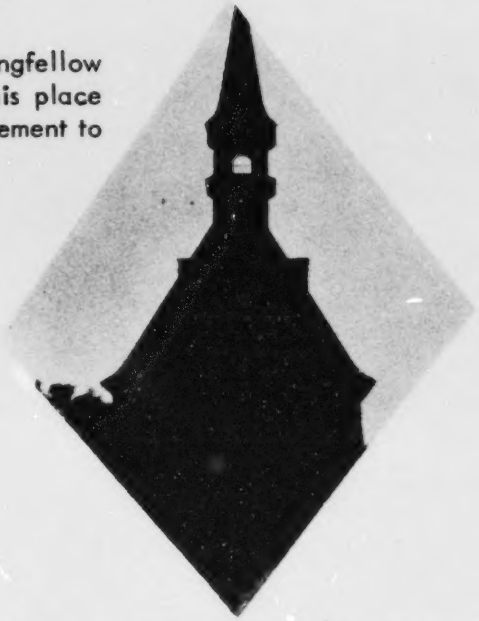
18th century furnishings.



18th century kitchen.

GRAND-PRE

Village immortalized by Longfellow in his poem Evangeline. This place marks the first Acadian settlement to be deported in 1755.



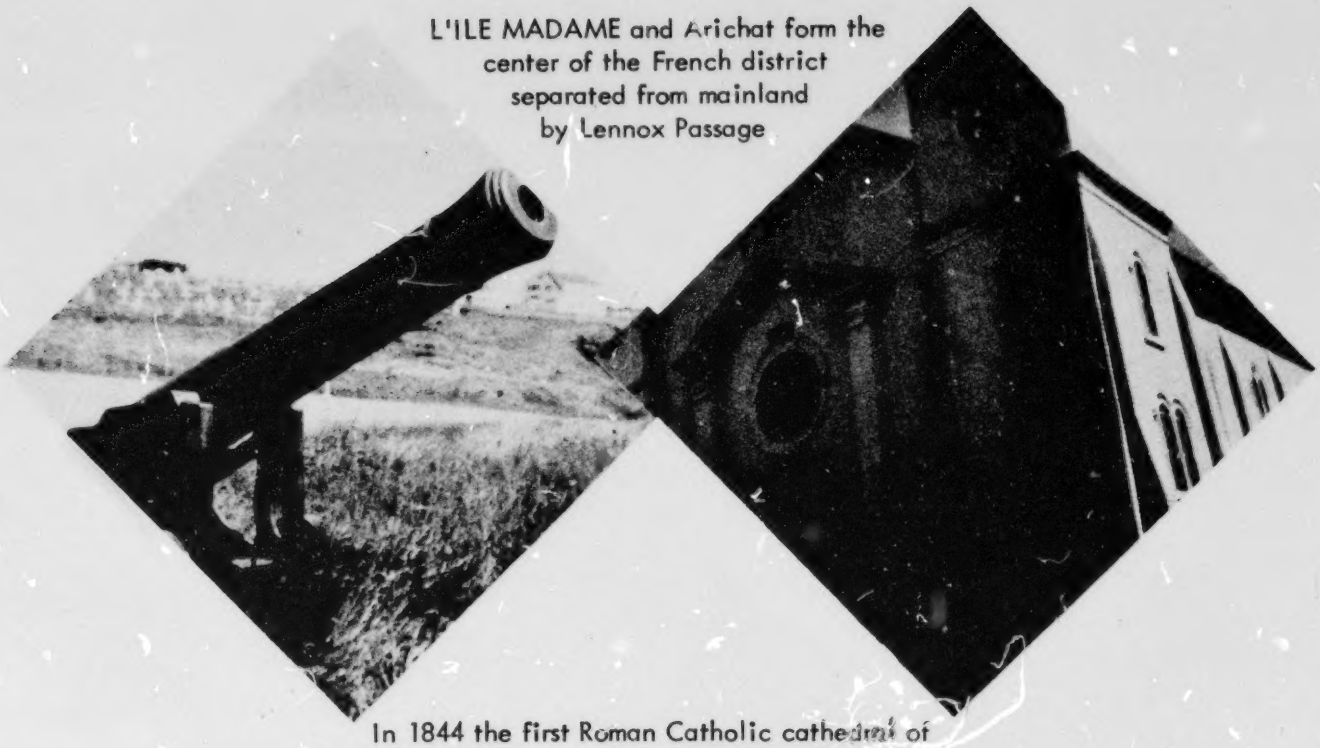
Museum-Chapel containing the statue of the Assumption by Padoue (Italian).

Cross commemorating the forced evacuation of the Acadians.

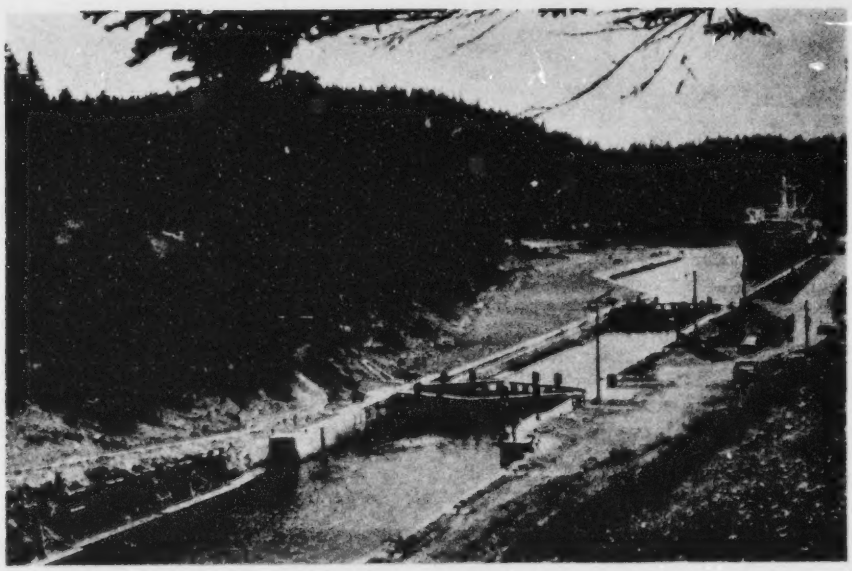
"Evangeline's Well" restoration of an old well found on the site by the English after Acadians left the land.

Bust of Longfellow

L'ILE MADAME and Arichat form the center of the French district separated from mainland by Lennox Passage

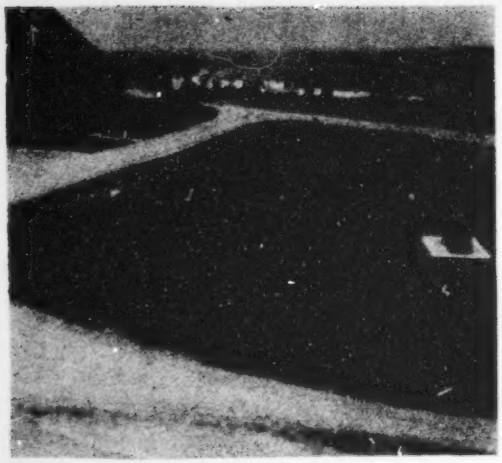


In 1844 the first Roman Catholic cathedral of Nova Scotia was erected on L'Ile Madame.

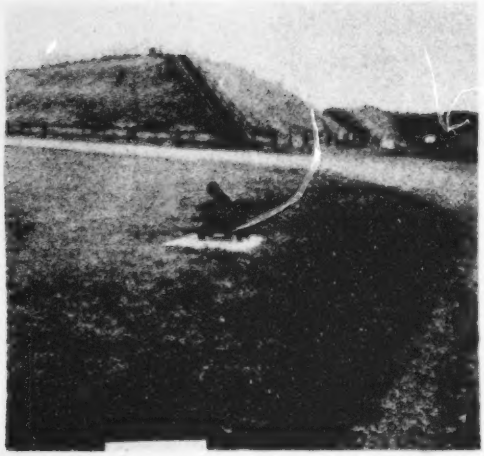


St. Peter's Canal cuts an isthmus one half mile in width and has one lock 300 feet long. Connecting St. Peter's Bay with the Bras d'Or Lakes, it follows the portage of the old French trading days.

L'ISTHME de CHIGNECTOU:
Fort Beausejour Aulac (New Brunswick)



National Historic Park. The museum overlooks the Tantramar marshes.

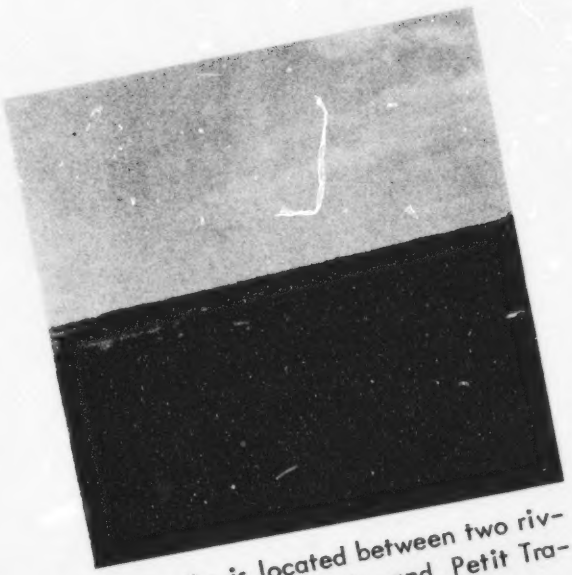


"Bastion de terre" (mound of earth) which dates back to the French period.

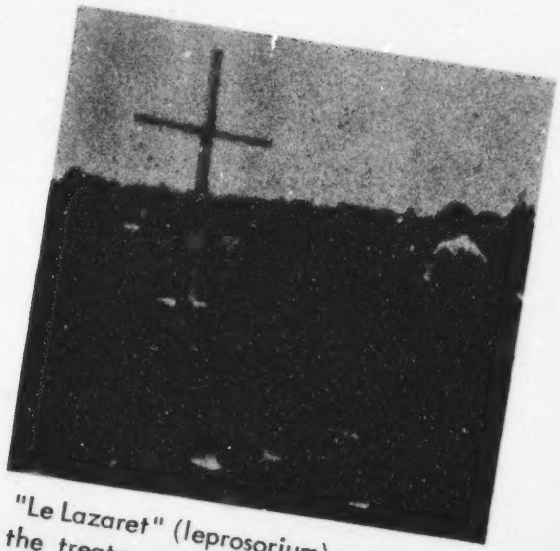
TRACADIE

(Named by Champlain in 1686)

Painting of Evangeline and Gabriel



Tracadie is located between two rivers, Grand Tracadie and Petit Tracadie.



"Le Lazaret" (leprosorium) existed for the treatment of leprosy which began in Tracadie in the 1750's and lasted until 1965.

Remains of the original Acadian dikes.

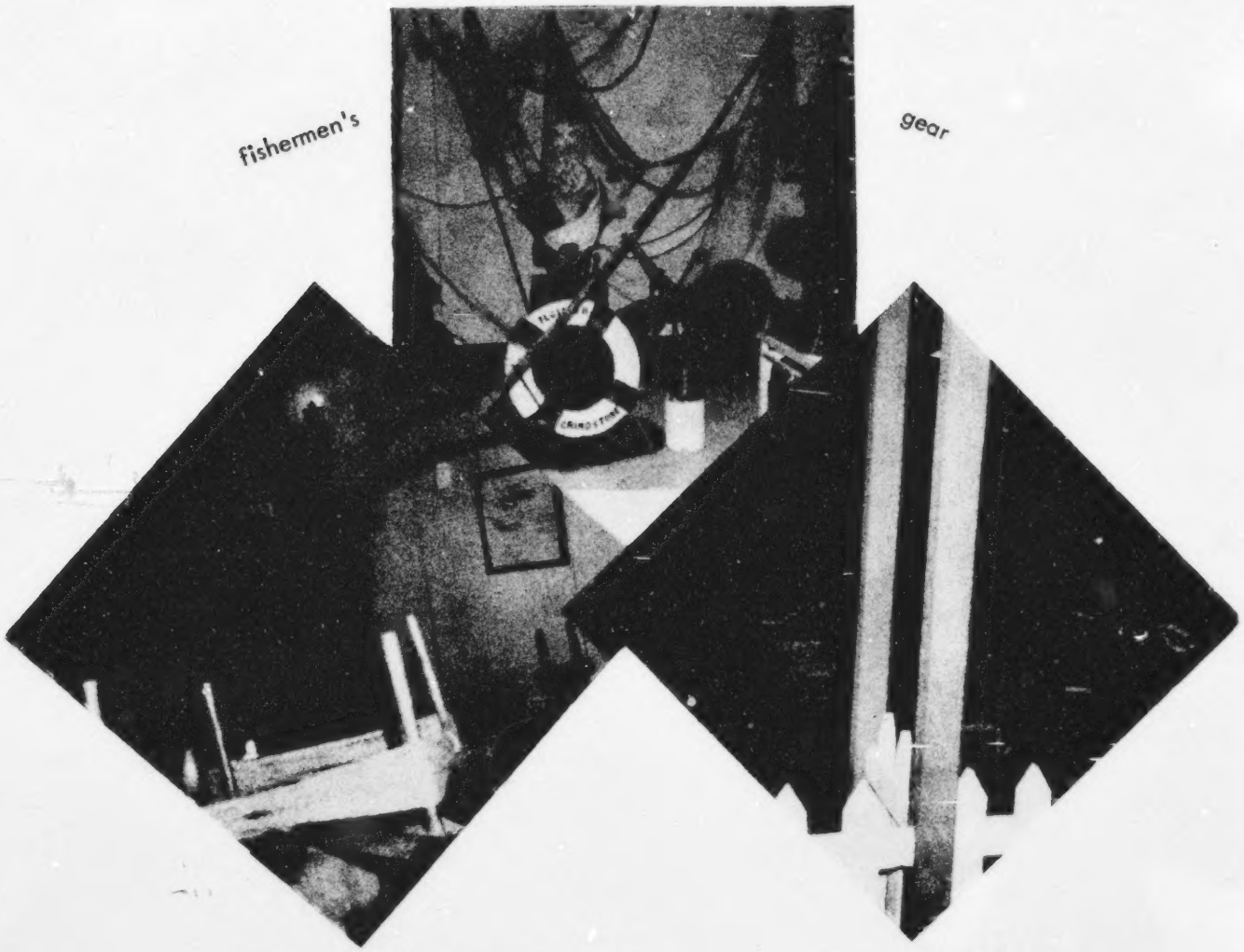
MONCTON MUSEUM

antique

furnishings

fishermen's

gear

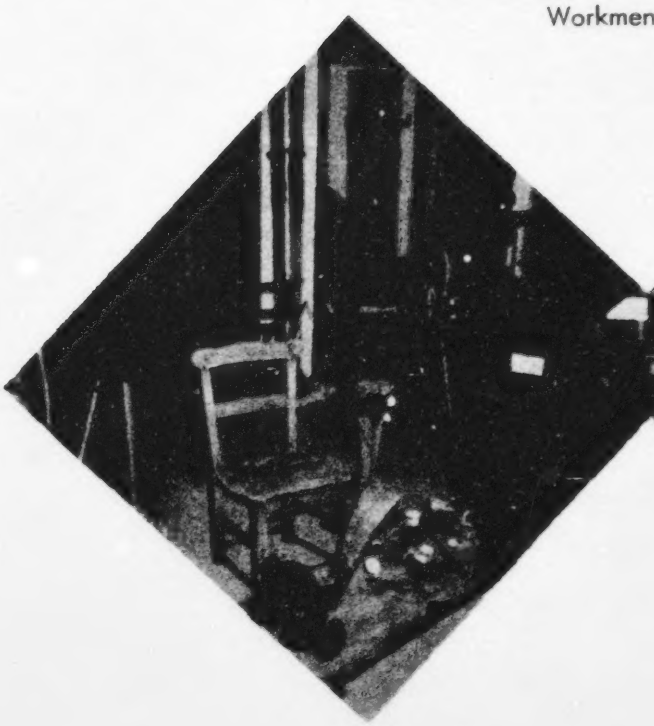


Hearth and spinning wheel

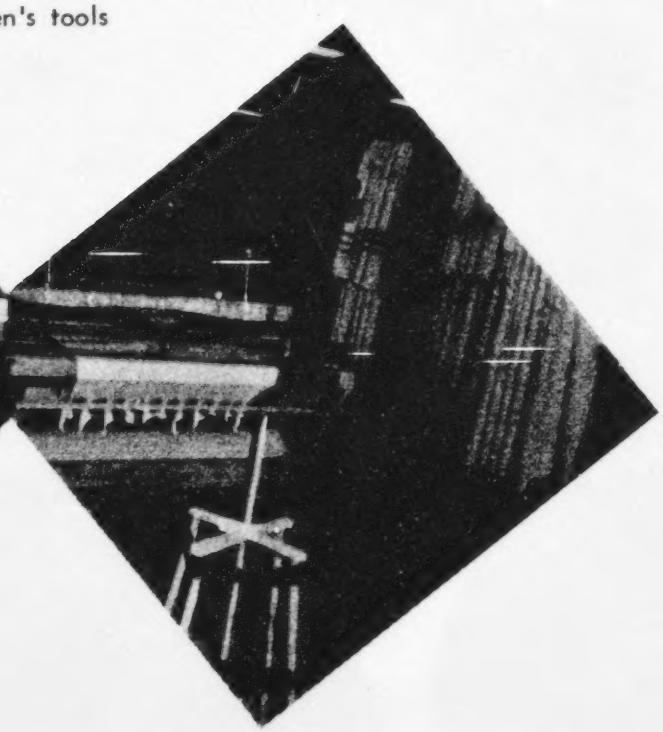
One-room school

Moncton was named after General Moncton who was responsible for the carrying out of the "Great Dispersion" (le Grand Derangement) of the Acadians.

Workmen's tools



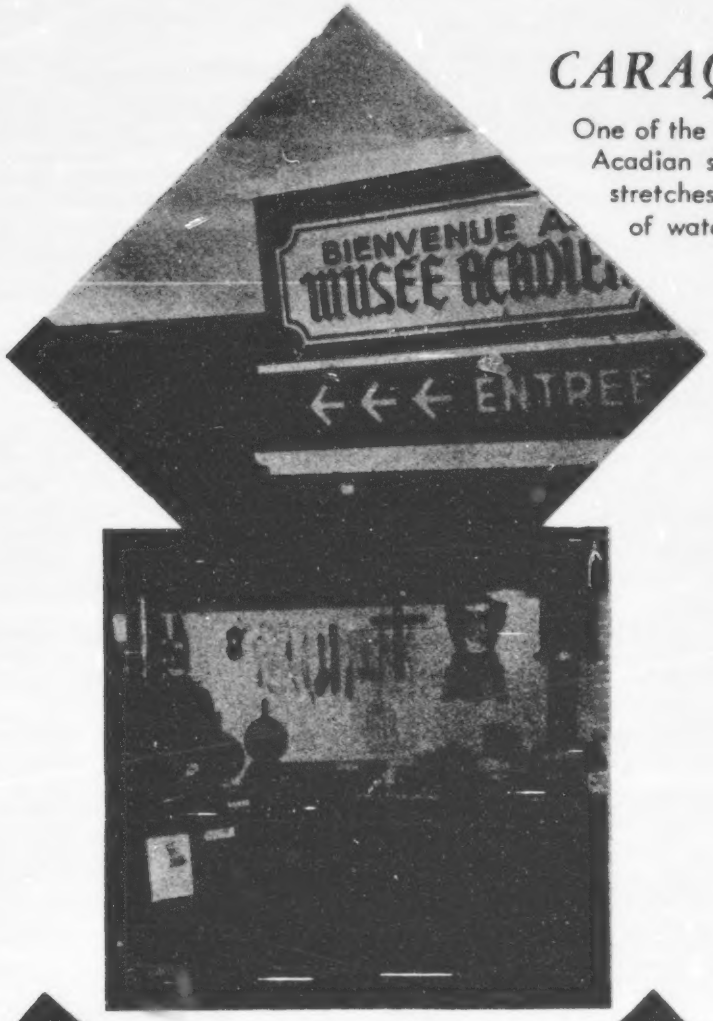
Miscellaneous antiques



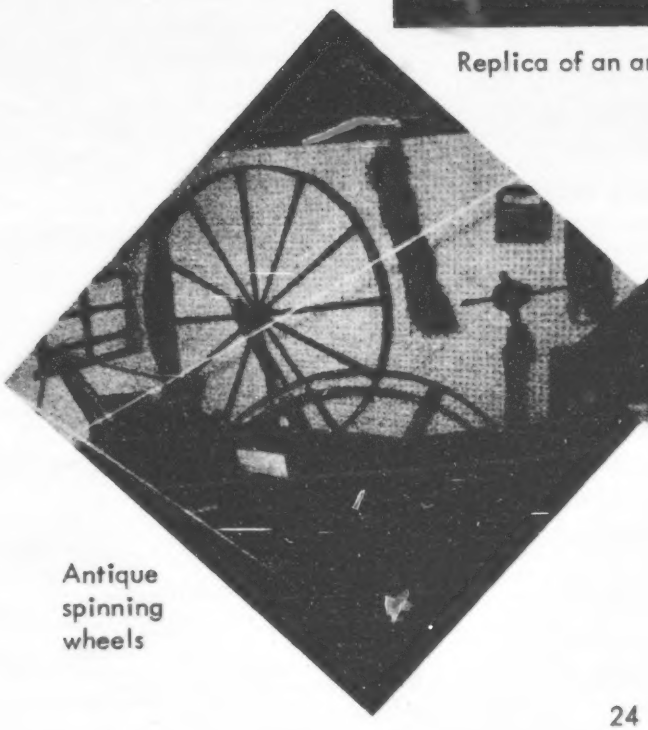
Weaving loom

CARAQUET

One of the most beautiful Acadian sites. This city stretches along 22 miles of water.

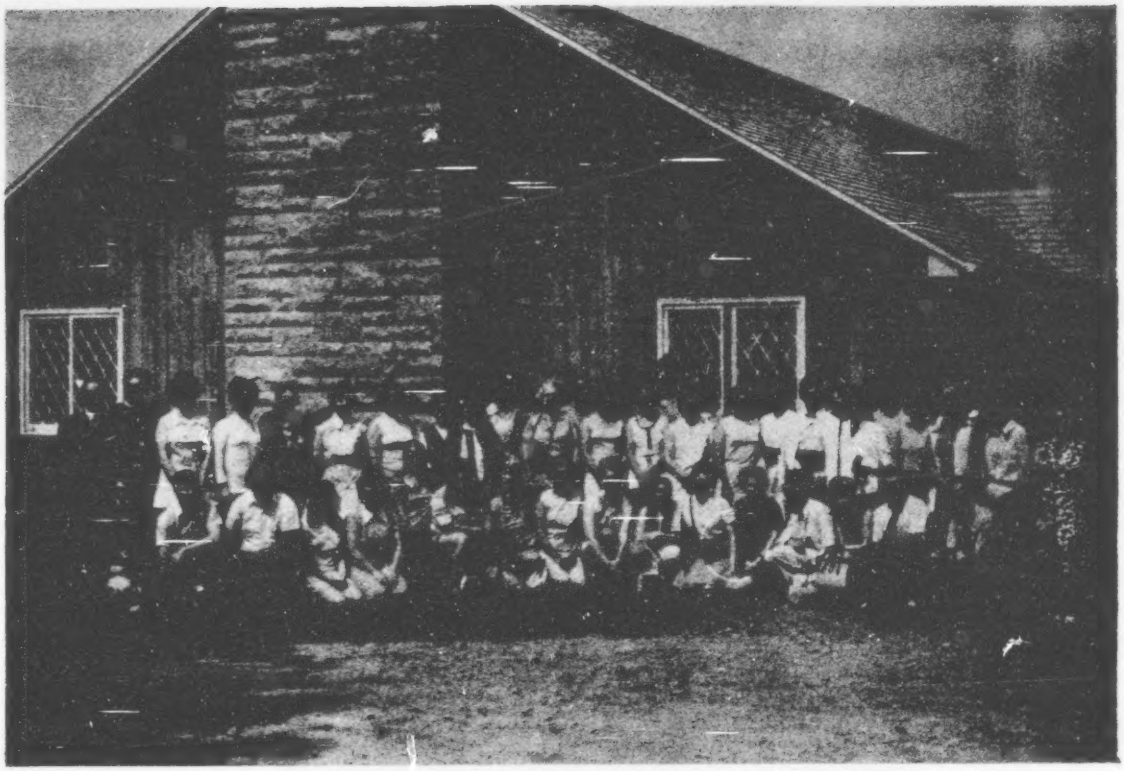


Replica of an antique kitchen



Antique spinning wheels

Ancient bedroom furnishings



ACADIAN - HISTORY TRAVEL - COURSE

The Caraquet Acadian Museum forms the background for the above group of people involved with the Follow-Through staff of School Administrative District #24 of Van Buren. A full week of travel over some 1,550 miles was enjoyed as the major spots involved with Acadian History were visited.